

Murray, David

From: epolcene@juno.com
Sent: Sunday, March 06, 2016 6:32 PM
To: Murray, David
Cc: Romero, Oscar
Subject: [External] comments on Northside RFQ

Dave and Planning Division;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft RFQ for the Northside Specific Plan consultant team.

- First I want to express support for the comments presented by Spanishtown Heritage Foundation, Springbrook Heritage Alliance and Northside Improvement Association, they represent many neighbors and decades of involvement.
- I want to emphasize that public lands should remain public for public use. In the project summary it says, " Because the properties are underutilized and owned by the City (RPU), the City Planning Division intends to obtain community input and develop a community-based vision for the properties." in reference to the Golf Course property. Does this mean a separate process or part of this process?
- Figure 2 should also show the N. Main St. commercial area as shaded in light blue like the other additional areas for consideration. This one is very important because it is and always has been the Northside's only commercial area. My husband's family owned businesses on N. Main and also on Market and on North Bend and lived on N. Orange. This area has always been North Riverside.
- Listed as a deliverable by the consultants is a " cursory " hydrologic analysis. I am concerned with cursory because this area is highly hydrologic, it's our oldest water source/well field for the City of Riverside, has historically been wetlands (described in the first Riverside maps as "the willows" because of the riparian habitat), is currently an active water source for the city and also contains examples of hydric soils. I would think a very in-depth hydrologic analysis would be needed.
- I don't see any mention of archaeological/cultural, analysis/qualifications. We know there have been two previous historical excavations yielding artifacts from both Native American and early colonist periods, neither study in anyway comprehensive. At least an evaluation of this situation is necessary for cultural preservation.
- This area was previously designated the Northside Redevelopment Zone and I think that background information is pertinent. Better to know what's been done before so as not to make the same mistakes. Despite rezoning of agricultural properties to Industrial use due to Redevelopment, not a lot of redevelopment was accomplished
- It would be really nice to have a community member or two on the SOQ evaluation committee. We were able to do that at redevelopment zone formation and I think it helped with community buy-in.
- Additionally, I am very disappointed that agriculture and the City of Riverside's Grow Riverside and local food and agriculture initiatives are not mentioned as considerations. Some of this area is prime agricultural lands that have never been built over and as such constitute a limited and dwindling natural resource. The defined area is a food desert with no local food supply. Once these lands are covered with buildings, parking lots, roads or other structures they forever lose that potential. Agri-tourism and eco-tourism opportunities should be highly encouraged and any potential development should seriously consider the soil, aquifer and remaining natural resources.

Thank you again for the opportunity to express my views.

Erin Snyder

Ward 1 Northside resident

"Teachers open the door, you enter by yourself."
- Old Chinese Proverb